

All my children have Asthma and I want them to have clean air for them to breathe.

As a result, I have been making comment on public transport for around 18 years.

Looking at information from the inquiry, a decision on what constitutes an improvement is being discussed. This can be seen with the rail system (and tongue in cheek) that lifts, paint, announcements etc are not of value if the trains are not able to get people where they want to go! An improvement is not a bigger or painted bus, colourful uniforms for these are accepted as operational necessities. What the people want.... an alternative to the car. This can be in the form of a more frequent service, extended hours of operation and the convenience that our minimum service quality public transport operations for most of Sydney, especially in the Western part of Sydney, fails to deliver.

After all, I consider that the car is the "alternative" that has merely been popularised. To me at present, the RTA is merely the Government arm of foreign multinationals. Without good roads, and this Government assistance, these people would not be able to sell their cars here. Even the tax system is arranged to support roads and cars to the detriment of my public transport system. For example, how are company cars able to become a tax deduction for employees to get to work but public transport is not?

With the scarcity of oil products in the near future and no viable alternatives ergonomically or ecologically at present, we as a country will be requiring these types of "alternatives" if our economy is to be a viable concern and for us not to become a banana republic. A balance is required. To me it is quite obvious that manipulation to support private and not essential transport operations is happening at present. Again an example: if the private roads were in the hands of the Government, all that profit being made would be used for better schools, hospitals, public transport and amenities for the community!

So I would find it of great advantage to provide incentives to private and public transport operators to provide better "services" to their customers and not merely demand fare increases for merely dressed up present operations.

Thank you for your services. Best wishes,

Bill Craig